

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00227 021006Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W
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R 020900Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 761
USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0227

SECSTATE FOR EUR/EE; USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, BU
SUBJECT: TCOM TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT FOR BULGARIA

REF: SOFIA A105 OF NOVEMBER 12, 1975

1. OFFICIAL FROM TCOM, SUBSIDIARY OF WESTINGHOUSE, CALLED ON EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SALE OF SATELLITE BALLOON COMMUNICATION SYSTEM TO BULGARIA WORTH ALMOST \$9 MILLION (SEE REFAIR--THE BALLOON, WHICH WOULD BE MOORED SOMEWHERE NEAR PLOVDIV, WOULD SERVE AS A TRANSMITTER FOR 5 TV AND 2 RADIO STATIONS COVERING ENTIRE COUNTRY). WESTINGHOUSE VP WALTER MAKUSH DURING VISIT TO EMBASSY JANUARY 29 STATED THAT OFFICIALS AT ELECTROIMPEX, PURCHASING ORGANIZATION FOR SYSTEM, WERE READY TO SIGN CONTRACT IF EXPORT APPROVAL FROM USG WAS IN HAND. MAKUSH INDICATED WESTINGHOUSE WOULD BE CONTACTING NECESSARY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SHORTLY TO OBTAIN APPROVAL.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS CLEARANCES REQUIRED ARE NOT FROM COCOM BUT FROM STATE'S MUNITIONS CONTROL BOARD. PLEASE CONFIRM AND CLARIFY. EMBASSY NOTES THAT THIS CONTRACT, IF SIGNED, WOULD PROBABLY REPRESENT THE LARGEST SINGLE NON-AGRICULTURE BUSINESS DEAL EVER CONCLUDED BETWEEN A U.S. FIRM AND BULGARIA, AND WE
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HOPE THAT WHATEVER APPROVALS WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY

ARE EXPEDITED.

HERZ

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: ullricre
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